

BRITAIN RETURNS TO THE DARK AGES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, in the Dark Ages, King Henry VIII left the Catholic church because it would not permit his multiple marriages. Well, Britain is heading back to the Dark Ages. The more wives a British male has, the more benefits he will receive under welfare. This new policy will really only benefit Muslim extremist men, who keep a harem of 4 wives.

The Archbishop of Canterbury suggested that Britain appease Muslim extremists so that they would not have to choose loyalty between Islam and Britain. Tell this to the British soldiers, who are fighting Muslim extremists in Iraq, while their own government rewards Muslim extremists at home. It seems that the real extremists are Britain's own leaders, who have gone too far in the name of political correctness.

Religious law cannot overrule the law of the land. We cannot make exceptions to appease an individual group.

The great Winston Churchill once said, "Never give in, never . . . never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense." I'm sure Winston Churchill is turning in his grave.

And that's just the way it is.

BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY MEETINGS AND SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I recently led a bipartisan House delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly meetings in Brussels and Paris, and to additional meetings in Croatia, the Republic of Macedonia (or Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, FYROM), and Albania from February 16–24. The co-chair of my delegation was the Honorable JO ANN EMERSON. In addition, Representatives CAROLYN MCCARTHY, ELLEN TAUSCHER, DENNIS MOORE, JEFF MILLER, MIKE ROSS, and BEN CHANDLER, and staff, worked to make this a highly successful trip in which we examined current NATO issues, above all the coming decision at the NATO summit in Bucharest on possible enlargement of the alliance.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NPA) consists of members of parliament from the 26 NATO states, as well as members of parliament from associated states such as Russia, Georgia, Ukraine, Croatia, Albania, and Macedonia. During NPA meetings delegates discuss and debate a range of issues of current importance to the alliance. At the February meetings, three issues dominated the discussions: enlargement of the alliance, Afghanistan, and developments in Kosovo. Delegates have the opportunity to listen to presentations by specialists from NATO and on NATO affairs, and to engage in discussion of

the issues raised. An additional element of the meetings is the opportunity to meet and come to know members of parliaments who play important foreign-policy roles in their own countries. Some of these acquaintances can last the duration of a career, and are invaluable for gaining insight into the developments of allied states.

Enlargement is one of the key issues before the alliance today. NATO will hold a summit in Bucharest April 2–4. Croatia, Albania, and Macedonia are candidate states, and each must receive unanimous support from all 26 allied governments in order for it to receive an invitation to join. From that point, each member state will follow its own constitutional processes to amend NATO's founding Washington Treaty to admit new states and to make a commitment to defend additional territory. There must again be unanimous support in this process for a candidate if it is to be admitted to membership. The alliance is still at an early stage, therefore, in considering the applications for membership of these three countries. Congress will hold hearings on the qualifications of the three states, and the United States and other allies will expect them to continue to work to meet NATO requirements under their Membership Action Plans (MAPs).

Our delegation also held discussions over NATO's effort to stabilize Afghanistan. It is clear, as Secretary of Defense Gates himself reportedly noted on February 8, that U.S. involvement in Iraq has damaged the effort to persuade allies to send forces to Afghanistan. European public criticism of the Iraq conflict has made more difficult our allies' task of persuading parliaments to contribute more troops to Afghanistan. The United States now contributes approximately 15,000 troops to NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), and will soon send 3,200 additional Marines to compensate for shortfalls in allied forces in the fight against a resurgent Taliban. This is a highly important mission in the effort to stem the growth of fanaticism and barbarism that remains a threat to civilized peoples everywhere. Each of us in the delegation made an effort to persuade our counterparts from the NATO parliaments to support ISAF and to contribute the forces necessary to stabilize Afghanistan.

Kosovo declared independence on February 17. Our delegation arrived for meetings in Brussels the day before, and reaction in southeastern Europe to the decision to place Kosovo under the EU's "supervised independence" was a principal topic of discussion. The United States and most allies quickly followed with recognition of Kosovo's new status and urged its continued development as a democratic, multi-ethnic state. NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR), of whom approximately 1,500 are U.S. soldiers, continues to provide security and is an important factor for stabilization in the current tension between Kosovo Albanians and the Serb minority in the north of the country. With the assistance of our embassies, the delegation closely followed developments in Kosovo throughout the trip.

While in Brussels, we met first with Ambassador Nuland, the U.S. permanent representative to NATO. She provided a briefing and responded to our questions on a wide range of issues. There followed two days of meetings of the NPA's Economics and Security, Defense and Security, and Political Committees. The meetings raised such issues as NATO's

political agenda, the effectiveness of the alliance's public diplomacy efforts, and a possible new Strategic Concept, which would lay out NATO's mission and goals for the coming several years.

We also held a private meeting with NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. Afghanistan and public support for ISAF were important topics of discussion, as was Kosovo. De Hoop Scheffer offered to come to Washington to meet with Members of Congress in the near future, and this is an idea worthy of consideration. There was also a "brainstorming" session at NATO headquarters, attended by Representatives ROSS, MOORE, and MILLER. Representative ROSS made a forceful presentation outlining the importance of the ISAF mission, and of allies making a fair share of the contributions to NATO forces in Afghanistan. The rest of the delegation attended a meeting of the North Atlantic Council, the alliance's governing body, comprised of representatives from the 26 member states. A range of issues—Russia, energy security, Kosovo, and Afghanistan among them—was discussed. We ended the day at NATO headquarters with a meeting with U.S. General Karl Eikenberry, who is the deputy head of NATO's Military Committee; he was also formerly commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan. He briefed the delegation on the effort to defeat the Taliban, and on the complexities of the political situation in Pakistan that is affecting Afghanistan's stability.

The delegation held meetings at the European Commission the following day. As chairman of the NPA's Economics and Security Committee, I presided over some interesting meetings on trade and the international economy. A highlight of the day was an exceptional presentation by the EU's Director General for trade, David O'Sullivan, who gave a lively presentation and concise overview of the principal points of controversy in the Doha round of trade talks, and in broader trade issues.

The delegation then traveled to Paris for meetings at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). After a brief session with our ambassador to the OECD and his staff, I chaired sessions at the OECD on a number of issues. The global economy, Russia's economic practices and potential, and the value of education in economic development were key subjects of discussion. That evening we met with members of the French-American Foundation, together with our ambassador to France and a number of members of the French parliament who are in the French-American caucus.

The following day the delegation traveled to Zagreb, Croatia, for the beginning of meetings with candidate state governments for membership in the alliance. Serbian reactions to Kosovo's independence and recognition by many governments had set the region on edge. The U.S. embassy in Belgrade, Serbia, was attacked on February 21, as were the Slovenian and Croatian embassies there. U.S. Ambassador to Croatia Robert Bradtke accompanied us during much of our stay in Croatia and kept us up to date on developments in Belgrade and on the safety of U.S. personnel at our embassy there. He also briefed us on Croatia's efforts to qualify for NATO membership.

While in Zagreb, we met with Prime Minister Sanader, President Mesic, and other senior officials. We were interested in discovering the

progress that Croatia has made in military modernization and in other aspects of the program outlined for the country in the MAP. That evening Ambassador Bradtke arranged for us to meet with members of the Croatian parliament, including opposition figures and key members of the foreign policy and defense committees, as well as independent voices in Croatia. This meeting allowed us to hear a wide range of views beyond those in the government, and added to our ability to evaluate Croatia's progress in the MAP. There is a consensus that significant progress has been made over the past several years. A key issue was the relatively low level of public support—somewhat over 50%—in the population for NATO membership, a figure that appears to be climbing. There must also continue to be progress made in the fight against corruption.

The following day we flew first to the Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), then to Albania. In Macedonia, our ambassador gave us a briefing that touched on several issues of relevance. The delegation then proceeded to meetings with Macedonian President Crvenkovski, Prime Minister Gruevski, and other senior officials, including General Stojanovski, the chief of defense forces. The internal political situation in the country remains complicated and unsettled, and issues range well beyond ethnic divisions in the country. Macedonian troops serve in NATO operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and we met several soldiers who had returned from assignments there. A key issue in NATO is the formal name of the country, and there are continuing discussions with Greece to attempt to reach a compromise under U.N.-sponsored talks. We are hopeful that Skopje and Athens can reach a settlement of this issue, and that Macedonia's candidacy for NATO can be judged solely on its qualifications under the MAP.

In Albania we met with President Topi and with Prime Minister Berisha. We also met with members of parliament from both the governing parties and the opposition. We were accompanied throughout our meetings by U.S. Ambassador Withers, who provided an overview of developments in Albania. There are conflicting views on the depth of the problem caused by organized crime and corruption in Albania, and this was one issue raised in our discussions with government officials. While laws have been passed to fight crime and corruption, it may be useful for Congress in the coming months to examine the degree to which such legislation has been implemented. It should be said that Albania, although a poor country, by all accounts has made progress in downsizing and modernizing its military.

The Serbian reaction to Kosovo's independence time and again surfaced during our meetings. In the coming months, we are likely to see a range of ideas raised for and against the possible membership of the "Adriatic 3" in the alliance. These are small countries with correspondingly small militaries; they must concentrate on niche capabilities to make a contribution to allied security, and each is making progress along this road. Given the continuing tensions in the region in part brought on by Serbia's reaction to Kosovo's independence, proponents of the three governments' candidacies are likely to argue that their developing democracies and contributions to multinational, cooperative efforts to bring stability are factors in their favor. These

are issues that my delegation and other Members of Congress will be considering in the coming months.

As always, members of the United States military contributed greatly to the success of this trip. The logistics of such a trip, compressed into a tight time frame, are complicated and require lengthy and detailed preparation. Our crew was from the 932nd Air Wing at Scott AFB, Illinois. This is an Air Force Reserve unit, and they did an outstanding job. I thank them for their hard work and their dedication to duty.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE ADAMS, GERALD HAYS, AND MARCEL SHIPP

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call your attention the lives of three fellow natives of my hometown, Paterson, New Jersey, Mike Adams, Gerald Hayes, and Marcel Shipp, who will be honored this evening by the Murph Boys Charitable Association, not only for their impressive athletic achievements, but for all they have done for others in need.

Each of these men began his journey in Paterson, New Jersey, and attended the same high school, Passaic County Technical Institute, PCTI, in Wayne.

In his career at PCTI, Adams earned all-state honors, as well as all-area and all-county, and was chosen as one of the top 100 players in New Jersey. He was outgoing and well-rounded, also lettering in track and baseball. He is remembered at PCTI for his tenacity and perseverance, overcoming many obstacles to succeed. He took this "can-do" attitude to the University of Delaware, where he started 23 of 43 career games, and posted 213 tackles, 11 interceptions, and 14 PBU, and ranks 11th in school history in interceptions. He entered the NFL in 2004 as an undrafted free agent and signed with the San Francisco 49ers. He made his NFL debut in November 2004 and by the next year appeared in 14 games. In 2005 he started 10 games, posting 68 tackles, a sack, a forced fumble, and tied for the team lead with four interceptions. In 2006 he started eight games and played in all 16, recording 67 tackles, three PBU, and 12 special teams tackles. After 3 years in San Francisco he signed as a free agent with the Cleveland Browns, recording 29 tackles, a sack, and two PBU in 2007 before a knee injury placed him on injured reserve.

During his time as a PCTI Bulldog, Gerald Hayes impressed coaches from the start and was a 4-year varsity player. He was a dominating player on the field, and off the field, won numerous awards in fine arts, and his pencil drawings were displayed in galleries throughout the State. He went on to play college football at Pittsburgh, and was a three-time first-team all-Big East selection. His career statistics at Pittsburgh include 387 tackles, 13.5 sacks, nine pass deflections, and two interceptions. He was chosen in the third round of the 2003 draft by the Cardinals, and by 2004 he saw action in every 2004 game, and was poised to start in 2005 before suf-

fering a season-ending injury in the preseason. He made his return in 2006, starting 14 games, leading the team in tackles with 111, despite missing the last two games with an injury. He had another successful season in 2007, with 98 tackles, four sacks, an interception, and three passes deflected.

Shipp was a quiet unassuming leader while at PCTI. He knew what he wanted to achieve and worked hard to reach his goal. He was an all-state selection as a senior, running for 1,510 yards and 24 touchdowns on 172 carries. Shipp then played 1 year at Milford Academy Prep, gaining 3,239 yards and 42 touchdowns on 429 carries. He then went on to the University of Massachusetts and is one of the school's most decorated athletes. He was the 6th ranked rusher in the history of NCAA Division 1-AA, with 5,383 yards. He gained over 100 yards 33 times, including 7 200-yard efforts. He holds UMass career records with 1,215 carries for 6,250 yards, 58 touchdowns, 378 points, and 7,759 all purpose yards. He signed in 2001 with the Arizona Cardinals as an undrafted free agent and as a rookie played in 10 games. He ended 2002 with 1,247 total yards, on 226 touches, a 5.5-yard average that was 2nd in the NFC. In 2003 he shared running back duties with Emmitt Smith until an injury sidelined Smith, and Shipp started the final 11 games. He gained 830 yards on 228 carries. He was the first Cardinal since 1992 to log back-to-back 100-yard games. He missed the 2004 season with an injury, but came back in 2005 to lead the team in rushing with 451 yards on 157 attempts. In 2006 he finished the season with four rushing touchdowns in the final four games and became the first Cardinal to rush for three touchdowns in one game since 1998.

What is most special about these three men is not what they achieve on the field, but what they do off of it. They all dedicate time and financial support to help those who are in need through charitable endeavors. Never taking their success for granted, they look for ways to make their communities a better place to live.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to being able to recognize the charitable community efforts of Americans like Mr. Adams, Mr. Hayes, and Mr. Shipp.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, everyone at Passaic County Technical Institute, all those who have been touched by the generosity of these men, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of Mike Adams, Gerald Hayes, and Marcel Shipp to their communities.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
ZANE STATE COLLEGE FOR ITS
INCLUSION IN WASHINGTON
MONTHLY'S LIST OF THE TOP 30
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Zane State College is ranked ninth among two-year colleges in the nation according to a report released by Washington Monthly; and